

THE GENUINE

T R I A L

OF THE

M U R D E R E R S

WILLIAM POWELL, Esq.

OF

Glanareth in the Parish of Llangadock.

CARMARTHENSHIRE.

Tried at HEREFORD Assizes, March 28, 1770.

Before Mr Justice YATES, and Baron PERROT.

H E R E F O R D,

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To the R E A D E R.

MANY People being desirous of having
The TRIAL of the Murderers of Mr.
Powell, of Glanareth, in Carmarthenshire, but
do not chuse to go to the expence of a Volume;
while a Pamphlet may convey the Sense of every
Evidence, in as clear and comprehensive a Man-
ner; we flatter ourselves, the Public will find this
Small Treatise equally entertaining and less bur-
thenfome to the Memory.



The voluntary Confession of William Walter
Evan, the 22d Day of January, 1770.

***** HIS examinant saith, That he was sent by
* T * William Williams from the house of Charles
* * David Morgan, to the town of Llandiloe to fetch
***** four shillings worth of ale; and was ordered by
the said William Williams to tell Morgan James, pedlar, to
come to Charles David Morgan's house to him, on the busi-
ness that he knows of, and in his way to Llandiloe, near
Tregibe, where he delived the said message to the said Mor-
gan James, who thereupon pointed his finger to this exami-
nant, signifying his desire of silence, as there was another
person near; but, afterwards asked this examinant where
William Williams then was, and on being told he was at the
said Charles David Morgan's, he then declared he would im-
mediately go to him, which he accordingly did. And this
examinant further saith, That the said Morgan James was
with the said William Williams at the said Charles David
Morgan's house, both before and after the murder of William
Powell, Gent. with his face blackened, together with seven
more blackened in the same manner, viz. William Williams,
William Spiggot, William Morris, David Llewelin, Wil-
liam Thomas, David Morgan, tinker, Walter Evan, tinker,
This examinant further saith, That when he returned with
the ale to Charles David Morgan's house, he was asked by

William Williams, the reason of his long stay; and, that Charles David Morgan observed, this examinant might return in two hours. Soon after, William, the son of Charles David Morgan, came to his father's house, and was asked by the said Williams if Powell was at his own house, and what room he was in, to which he answered, that the deceased was in the hall with two or three persons along with him; Williams immediately cried out, that he did not care if one hundred people were with Powell, clapping his hand on William Spiggot's shoulder, now, my boys, let us go, and be faithful to one another; and, ordered David Llewellyn to be at their head, as he depended on his being the first that would lay hold of the deceased, to which, Llewellyn replied, that he would certainly follow his directions. This examinant further saith, That four others undisguised, viz. Charles David Morgan, William, his son, John Isaac, and this examinant, together with the beforementioned eight people that were blackened, sallied from the said house to Glanareth, the seat of the deceased; and in their way were joined by J. Spigget, at, or near Llwyn-y-mundu, adjoining to Glanareth: that when they came by Glanareth, William Williams, William Spiggot, put on waggoner's frocks over their clothes; a bottle of spirits was drank between them all: when the said Wm. Williams and Wm. Spiggot put on the frocks, they asked this examinant whether he knew them under that disguise, to which he answered, he should not, if he had not known they were there: That Williams mentioned he would be known if he should wear his wig. To prevent such discovery, he either took it off, or put an handkerchief over it. The said David Morgan being red-headed, bound up his hair with a handkerchief, that the above twelve persons, together with this examinant, ran in a body to the deceased's house; and during the time, the said David Morgan told Williams that if the latter would not fulfil his pro-

nise, he would use him in the same manner, as they all intended using Powell. That Williams answered he was welcome to do it, that he should never want, and that during his life, he would take care of him.

That Williams desired this examinant to go to Glanareth house to find if the doors were opened; and upon his refusal they all ran towards the house, excepting this examinant, John Spiggot, and John Isaac, who staid in the Haggard: and that Charles David Morgan with a loaded gun, and William, his son, were stationed at the garden-hedge: that J. Spiggot soon after told this examinant they (meaning the people that he joined at Llwyn y-mondu) were got into the house; and, that he immediately ran off, and went to the house. Upon the return of the abovementioned persons from Glanareth house, he heard William Williams reproach John Spiggot with being a dastardly dog; and went up to him intentionally to strike him. That he replied, that he saw the deceased on his back on the floor, that he stabbed him with a tuck, when in that situation, and that was all he did. That on their return to Charles David Morgan's house, he heard David Llewellyn, upon the said Williams damning him, and telling him, that he promised to be more resolute, replying, that he had caught the deceased by the breast; that he took out his knife and had one thrust at him; that Williams answered, my lad, as you behaved so well and you being my tenant for sixteen pounds per annum, you shall hold the place rent free, and I will give you a yoke of oxen, and a bay mare, which were then in Llewellyn's possession. That William Spiggot informed this examinant and others that he had cocked a pistol he had in his hand, put it to the deceased's mouth; that he drew the trigger, and that the pistol snapped; that Williams asked the said Spiggot, why in the devil's name he did not knock the deceased down with the but-end: that Spiggot replied, he tripped up

his heels; that Williams then said, he received him on his fall with a cutlass, and ran him through and through. That David Morgan said, that he, at that same instant, ran the deceased in the back with a tuck. That Williams desired the said David Morgan, if he should at any time be questioned about the murder, to conceal his being the murderer, and that the deceased was murdered by another; that David Morgan replied, he might depend upon him; that he, Williams, knew what he had sworn at Glanfevin, and that he would do the same at Carmarthen-hall. That Williams said, he never saw a person of more resolution and he was (meaning Morgan) as determined as himself.

This examinant further saith, that he heard Wm. Thomas, inform him and others that he staid at the threshold of the kitchen-door at Glanareth, and on his seeing some people staring hard in his face, he attempted firing at them, and the gun missed fire. This examinant further saith, That William Morris had his face blackened, and wore a large black wig, the better to disguise him; heard him confess that he had fired a pistol, and was in the same room with the deceased; that he saw Williams on his knees under the deceased, and that he pushed the deceased off, That he heard Wat. Evan, the tinker, confess that he struck one of the people in the deceased's kitchen, who had fired a gun; that Williams answered, that the person's spirits were very great that would attempt to fire seeing so many in the house; that Williams boasted

that he had struck him six or seven times through and through, and that he felt one of the thrusts against his back-bone; and that then he gave him thrusts from side to side; that he would pay for the bread the deceased should ever after eat; that the devil (meaning the deceased) need not fear swords if he was then alive: that he assured all the persons attending him that they should never want, and that he feared nothing unless one of them should impeach, and that if he thought any one would do it, he, and the rest of his companions would join to put him to death. Asked the examinant (who was formerly a servant with the deceased) if he was concerned for his late master, who was a bastard and thief: to which this examinant answered, he was not. Williams replied, if he thought he had the least concern, and would impeach them, this examinant should have the same fate with the deceased, shewing him at the same time the manner that Williams would do it. On their return to Charles David Morgan's house, this examinant was the last person that went in, he there saw a pail of water, and Williams, Wm. Spiggot, Wm. Morris, Watt, the tinker, Wm. Thomas, Morgan James, Charles David Morgan, and David Llewellyn wash their faces and hands;

that there was blood on Williams, Wm. Spiggot and David Llewelin; the said Williams and Spiggot took off their frocks, packed them up in a bundle, and gave them Wm. Thomas; drank the remainder of the ale, and went off together to Quarter Bach, the lands of John Morgan Daniel, in the parish of Langadock, in the said county of Carmarthen, where Morgan James, David Morgan, and Watt, the tinker, separated from the rest, and went towards Talsarn, in pursuance of Williams's directions; and received from him a guinea a piece. Williams then desired them to return in a week's time, and he would give them more money. The rest went together until they came near David Llewelin's house, when Williams gave him either three shillings or three shillings and six-pence, to buy cheese for his children; Llewelin then went home. They proceeded to a place, called Penyrack, where John Spiggot left them, in order to return to Glantowy to his master, it being then between ten and eleven o'clock in the night. The remainder went on to Llwyn Jack, when Williams ordered this examinant to go to Keven-trefna, the dwelling house of Marmaduke Bowen, Gent. situated in the parish of Killy-cwm, in the said county, to call him instantly out of bed

and inform him that Powell was murdered; and to desire him to set off immediately for Llandovery to meet the said Williams at his brother John Williams' house, or any other; that he Bowen should send a messenger for Williams on his arrival there; and not to come in person, that means might be contrived to prevent the deceased's effects to be pilfered, and to take care of the burial. That this examinant and John Isaac went in consequence of such direction to Keweenaw, knocked at the door which was opened by Lewis Lloyd Bowen, son to the said Mr. Bowen, some hours before day, inquired after his father, and at the same time informed him that his uncle (Powell) was dead: that the son went with the examinant to his father's bed-chamber door, called on Mr. Bowen to arise, which he did and opened the door, then informed him of his brother-in-law, Powell's death, and Williams' message; this examinant telling him he was murdered, Bowen immediately asked by whom, this examinant informed him of the manner Powell was murdered. The said Lewis Lloyd Bowen was present most part of the time; and soon after he informed the latter of the whole. That the said Mr. Bowen upon his receiving the above account, expressed himself, Praise be to God, the Villian is gone! he plagued many; that he would not go himself, but would send his son as he was fitter to walk to Llandovery. That the said Lewis Lloyd Bowen went off, that Williams told the examinant to direct Marmaduke Bowen, to inform his own servant, that this examinant was at his house the preceding evening at six o'clock, that Lewis Lloyd Bowen returned about nine o'clock next morning to his father's house with the said W. Williams and John Williams his brother where they breakfasted.

During which time they contrived the burial of the deceased and repeated the manner of the murder, to the best of this examinant's understanding, their conversation being in English, which he is not conversant with. This examinant

faith that he continued at Mr. Bowen's on Tuesday, the next day after the murder, till about 10 o'clock in the night where the said William Thomas came to him, and informed him that Williams directed him to set off for a place called Drain-fun-dau, in the county of Cardigan, to prevent this examinant's being taken up, being afraid that this examinant was the most likely to be impeached; this examinant continued at Keven Trefna, till an hour before day, the following Wednesday, when he and John Isaac went through Killy-cwm village to Magdalen Rhutherch's house, where they eat and drank, and staid about three hours, and from thence went off to Drain fun-dau, where they continued until they were taken up.

Before me,

W. MANSEL,

The mark of

Will Watt X Evan,

Grand Jury.

Sir John Cotterell
Sir James Hereford } Knights.
Henry Shiffner,
James Kinnerley,
John Brewster,
Thomas Bernard,
John Dirbin,
Thomas Carpenter,
John Scudamore Letchmere,
James Bowman Clarke,
Thomas Hopkins Merrick,
Thomas Downes,
John Patteshall, Esquires.
John Carwardine,
Humphrey Prosser,
Samuel Careless,
Antipas Church,
John Griffiths,
Richard Hebb. Gentlemen

Petty Jury.

Matthew Miller,
William Hardwick,
Phillip Palmer,
James Wellington,
Thomas Rideout,
James Mynd,
Obadiah Gibbons,
Henry Marsh,
Nicholas Gilbert,
Joseph Owen,
Thomas Baylis,
John Hebb.



T H E
T R I A L &c.

The names of the Persons tried.

William Spiggot;
John Spiggot,
Wm. Morris,
Wm. Thomas;

David Morgan,
Wm. Walter Evan,
Charles David Morgan,
William Charles.

 H E above Culprits being arraigned in the usual method, and the Jury sworn, and the accustomed proclamation for informations of treasons, recognizance, and the cause being opened by Councils for the Crown. The Trial began.

WALTER EVAN, the first evidence, was an Accomplice, and deposed, that about a fortnight before the murder, he went with John Williams, and David Morgan, Tinker, in the dusk of

the evening to the New Bear, when up stairs Williams asked him what sort of a man he was, to which he replied, he was afraid of no man, that there was in the room at that time, Wm. Williams, Thomas William Thomas, and one Tom of Drayn-fun-ddu, and he believed Wm. Thomas, prisoner, was in the room, but was not certain, That Williams asked him, if he could kill a man? he said he could not: that Williams asked these questions aloud, that all the room might hear, Williams then asked if he could not kill a man in his own defence, to which he said he could, and that he spoke so loud that all might hear that would; that Wm. Walter Evan, told them, that he had been at Mr. Powell's to look for him, but he was not at home that Williams asked W. Walter Evan, if he knew where Powell was: that Williams kept John Haac and Tom of Drayn-fun-ddu, all night at the New Bear, and he, and the Tinker went to their lodgings: that Williams told him if he discovered any thing that happened that night, he would run him through; and the reason of Williams' suspicion arose from this deponent's being in liquor and unruly, and wanting to pay his reckoning, and go home: and Williams would not suffer him to pay; that he afterwards told Williams he could take a man.

or kill a man, and on the morrow (Sunday) he met again at the New Bear, with J. Isaac, David Morgan, Tom of Drayn-fun-ddu, and William Williams; that they talked plainly about killing Mr. Powell, and Williams said he must be killed, and whoever would do it, should never want, nor be hurt; that at all their future meetings they talked of killing him; that on New Year's day they met again, and talked about Mr. Powell's being at Swansea, and that Williams ordered this witness and Lawellin to go to Swansea to kill him; on the fourth day after New Year's day, they met again at the New Bear, when Williams abused them for not being active in their business: Williams asked him if he had seen Powell in such a place as he could kill him, he said, he had not seen him, that he could recollect no more till the Saturday before Mr. Powell was murdered, when D. Morgan, J. Isaac, and himself was sent to Kily-cwm, lest seeing so many together they should be taken notice of; they informed Capt. Bowen that Williams sent them there, for this reason, Bowen could not lodge them, but gave them a note to take to the public-house, for to have five shillings worth of liquor; that in the evening Bowen came and spent two shillings with them, and on

Sunday morning they went to the New Bear in Landover, when Charles David Morgan and William Wat Evan informed Williams, that Mr. Powell was come from Swansea, on which Williams seem'd rejoiced, and said they would go to him and kill him; that by his order, they all went to C. David Morgan's house, except Wm. Morris, and Wm. Spiggot, that while they were there all their talk was about killing Mr. Powell; on the morrow Wm. Morris, Wm. Spiggot, and Morgan James, pedlar, came to them; about the dusk of the evening they black'ned their faces all but David Morgan and his son, and set out, Williams having offered each 100 guineas for assisting, and said that was the night for doing it or never; that he asked him what was his reason for killing Mr. Powell. that he answered he is a bad man, and it is no harm; that he said suppose Mrs. Powell should prosecute us for killing him? Williams pulled out a piece of gold as large as a crown piece, and said it had belonged to his wife, and said he was sure his wife would not prosecute any body.--- That in their way to Mr. Powell's, J. Spiggot joined them at the garden-hedge; that this deponent stopped to ease himself, and Williams stood over him the while with a hanger drawn, and

said he would run him through, if he offered to turn back or leave them; that when they came to the house Williams placed him at the kitchen-door, that from the parlour he heard some people cry out, " Murder," when they came out of the house, Williams said he had stabbed Mr. Powell, David Morgan, said he had stabbed him, and David Lawellin's knife was bloody; that when they returned to David Morgan's house, he saw Williams's hanger broke and bloody.

✠ The other Evidences ratifying this only, we thought it unnecessary to insert them.—The Evidences being summed up separately for each Prisoner, William Spiggot was found guilty. Then his Lordship thus addressed him. William Spiggot, you have been tried and upon evidence that leaves not the smallest doubt, have now been found guilty of the most wicked, the most savage, and the most horrid Murder that ever stained the hand of Man. A cool, deliberate, concerted assassination! Without a quarrel to provoke, without a passion to incite, without a motive to tempt you, but the blackest that ever disgraced human nature, — A willingness to earn the wages of iniquity, the execrable wages of an hireling assassin. And how hardened, how determined the preparations you made for that bloody work! Day after day projecting the design, 'till at last deliberately putting on the ruffian frock and black'ned face you daringly entered the doors of the Deceased; and in his own house murdered him, most inhumanly murdered him, with every circumstance of savage barbarity: yet he had never done the least wrong to you, not the smallest provocation or offence. That unfortunate man is now in his grave, and in two days you will be as cold and lifeless as he. But how different your departure! By your bloody hand he was wickedly murdered.

You for that murder will justly die: It is now my duty to pronounce that dreadful sentence; an office which to me is ever painful. I feel for the melancholy condition you are in who are so soon to die by the hands of justice, but how little did you feel for the poor man you murdered! Friday next, the day after to-morrow will in this world be your last: But think of the more dreadful day to come, when you will appear before a far more awful tribunal, before the great judge of all mankind. Think how you will stand before him covered over with the blood of your fellow-creature, whom you so wickedly murdered, most daringly presuming to destroy that life which the Almighty gave, and which he alone had a right to take away. You have now but two days to live, and in that short time have much work to do. I therefore most earnestly intreat you to employ every moment that is left you in imploring God's mercy and forgiveness, that your soul may escape that dreadful punishment which lasts thro' all eternity. At this bar you must expect no mercy. The sentence of the law will most certainly be executed upon you; and that sentence is, "That you must be taken from hence to the place from whence you came, and from thence on Friday next to the place of execution; that you be there hanged by the neck 'till you are dead; and that your body afterwarls be delivered to the surgeons to be dissected". And the Lord have mercy on your soul!

+ Spiggots sentence was afterwards altered, and his body hung in chains on Hardwick Green 3 miles from the Hay, on the road leading to Hereford. Wm. Walter Evan, was likewise found Guilty, and hangs to the same Gibbet; Wm. Morris, David Morgan, David Llawnellin, and Charles David Morgan, were convicted, --- their bodies were dissected.

✠ J. Spigget, Wm. Thomas, and Wm. Charles, Acquitted.



